(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Shane J. Trapp

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: 2823

Filed: December 10, 2001

Examiner: T. Pham

For: METHOD AND COMPOSITION FOR

PLASMA ETCHING OF A SELF-ALIGNED

CONTACT OPENING

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box Non-Fee Amendment

Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

In the Specification

On page 2, before "Field of the Invention," please insert – This application is a divisional of application Serial No. 09/752,685, filed on January 3, 2001, which is incorporated herein by reference.--

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-25 and claims 36-70.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The specification has been amended to include a reference to prior application Serial No. 09/752,685, filed on January 3, 2001, as required by 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2).

Claims 1-25 and 36-70 have been canceled. The pending application now contains claims 26-35.

Bv

Allowance of the application is solicited.

Dated: December 10, 2001

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas J. D'Amico

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